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NEWS

Contact:

Vicki Woodard (csvns@eiu.edu)
217-581-7650
217-581-8444 (fax)

Office of Media Relations
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920-3099
(www.eiu.edu/~pubaff/omr.htm)

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For Immediate Release:

EIU/UPI NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

CHARLESTON – Representatives of the Eastern Illinois University administration and the EIU faculty union – the University Professionals of Illinois – have been negotiating a successor agreement for faculty and academic support professionals since early May 2002. These negotiations have primarily focused on 10 to 12 general issues. The parties have held approximately 25 formal sessions throughout the past five months to exchange proposals and bargain collectively.

Bob Wayland, EIU's chief negotiator, states that the university's bargaining representatives have bargained in good faith in presenting a number of package proposals and /or counter-proposals to the UPI's proposals in an attempt to address the issues. Differences on a number of the original issues have been mutually resolved throughout the bargaining sessions. To date, several issues have not been resolved, and both parties have acknowledged that negotiations have essentially stalled.

Therefore, representatives of the university have requested the services of a federal mediator to facilitate the collective bargaining process. The use of mediation services is a typical stage of the collective bargaining process where the parties have reached a bargaining impasse. Upon assignment of a federal mediator, the parties will start scheduling dates to pursue the mediation process.

University representatives remain committed to reaching a fair settlement and hopeful that an agreement can be reached soon during a difficult budget period.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.